

Marine Patrol periodically stops fishermen that are shellfishing in North Carolina waters to assure that fishermen are not harvesting shellfish from polluted areas and to check for compliance with harvest restrictions. As a result, recreational fishermen are encountered during their stops. It is feasible that Marine Patrol could survey those fishermen that have already been stopped to get detailed information on recreational shellfish harvest.

IV. CURRENT AUTHORITY

North Carolina General Statutes

113-169.2 Shellfish license for NC residents without a SCFL

North Carolina Fisheries Rules for Coastal Waters (15A NCAC)

03K .0105 Harvest of crabs and shellfish.

03K .0501 Bay Scallops – Seasons and harvest limits.

03K .0502 Taking bay scallops at night and on weekends.

V. MANAGEMENT OPTIONS/IMPACTS

(+ potential positive impact of action)

(- potential negative impact of action)

A. *Status quo*

- + No additional regulation on recreational fishery
- Information not available for recreational harvest estimates

B. Intercept survey

- + Catch/effort data per species collected
- + Gear data collected
- + Species identification and size data collected
- + Ability to gather socioeconomic data
- Expensive to implement
- Difficult to intercept shoreline fishermen
- Unable to intercept fishermen originating from private residence

C. Phone survey

- + Kinds of species caught
- + Gear data collected
- + Some effort information (number of trips)
- + Ability to gather socioeconomic data
- Sampling universe not defined
- Expensive to implement
- Unable to get individual species data (lengths, etc)
- Survey dependent on recollective memory